

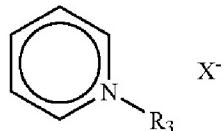
**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A method for ~~econcentration~~ recovering fine particles dispersed in an aqueous medium comprising, adding an ionic liquid, which does not dissolve substantially a dispersing aqueous medium, to the aqueous medium containing fine particles, wherein the amount of the ionic liquid b mL to be added to 10mL of the aqueous medium containing said fine particles by a mM dispersing concentration is in the range so as the ratio a/b ~~to be at least is 0.05≤a/b<1.0~~, and transferring said fine particles from said aqueous medium to the ionic liquid ~~and concentrating the fine particles into said ionic liquid~~.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently amended) The method for ~~econcentration~~ recovering fine particles dispersed in the aqueous medium of claim 1, wherein the ionic liquid is an ionic liquid which is liquid at room temperature.
4. (Currently amended) The method for ~~econcentration~~ recovering fine particles dispersed in the aqueous medium of claim 3, wherein the ionic liquid is an organic ionic liquid.
5. (Currently amended) The method for ~~econcentration~~ recovering fine particles dispersed in the aqueous medium of claim 4, wherein the organic ionic liquid is selected from the group consisting of compounds represented by following formulae 1,

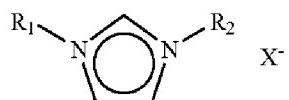
Response to Office Action of 12/10/2008  
Atty. Docket No. TAN-354  
Yokoyama *et al.*

formulae 1

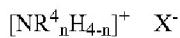
a.



b.



c.



wherein,  $R_3$  and  $R^4$  are an alkyl group of carbon number 1-7, n is an integer of 1-3,  $R_1$  is an alkyl group which can possess a substitution group of carbon number 1-7,  $X^-$  is selected from the group consisting of  $PF_6^-$ ,  $BF_4^-$ ,  $NO_3^-$ ,  $(CF_3SO_3)_2N^-$ ,  $TFSI^-$ ,  $Cl^-$  and  $SO_3H^-$ .

Claims 6-11 (Canceled)